Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-27 Cancelled

28. (New) A method for creating a physical teeth model comprising:

providing a virtual three dimensional (3D) representation of a patient's dentition that comprises at least a region of the teeth that includes a tooth stump on which a crown is to be fitted or a region onto which a bridge is to be fitted;

creating a 3D data file of a patient's jaws and of the spatial relationship between said jaws in occlusion; and

preparing a physical model of the jaws of said patient's dentition from a blank, based on information from said virtual 3D representation, wherein said physical model is produced with an alignment arrangement to permit proper occlusion alignment of the jaws of said model, based on said 3D data file.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein optionally a computer driven machine prepares said physical model, wherein optionally said model is a plaster model, and wherein optionally said model is a positive tooth model.

30. (New) A method for making a model according to claim 28, wherein a computer driven milling machine makes said model from a plaster blank.

31. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said physical model is a positive model comprising two members, one representing the upper jaw and the other the lower jaw, both members being produced with markings to provide the technician with clues for proper alignment of the two members.

32. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said physical model is a positive model comprising two members, one representing the upper jaw and the other the lower jaw, both members being produced with said alignment arrangement to permit proper occlusion alignment of the two members.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the alignment arrangement includes a mounting arrangement for mounting said members on an articulator.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein said mounting arrangement comprises articulator engagement portions formed in each said member, said articulator engagement portions comprising reference holes that can be registered and engaged with respect to corresponding holes or pins in said articulator, wherein said articulator engagement portions and the reference holes thereof are initially defined in said 3D model.

35. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the alignment arrangement includes one or more alignment reference components in each of said members, said components in the two members corresponding to one another with each

component in one of said members fits with the corresponding component in the other of said members to yield proper alignment of the two members.

36. (New) A method as claimed in any one of claim 28, particularly for fabricating a dental crown, a dental bridge or the like, further comprising the step of manufacturing a crown, bridge or the like to be fitted on said region.

37. (New) A method according to claim 36, comprising, based on information from said virtual 3D representation, generating a 3D model of a crown, bridge or the like to be fitted on said region.

38. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein a computer driven milling machine prepares a physical crown, bridge or the like based on said 3D model.

39. (New) A method for making a model according to claim 36, wherein a computer driven milling machine makes a physical model of at least said region of the teeth that includes a tooth stump on which a crown is to be fitted, and a physical model of the crown to be fitted on said tooth stump is prepared.

40. (New) A method for making a model according to claim 36, wherein a computer driven milling machine makes a physical model of at least said region of the teeth on which a bridge is to be fitted, and a physical model of the bridge to be fitted on said region is prepared.

41. (New) A physical teeth model for use in fabricating a dental crown, a dental bridge or the like, said model being based on a virtual three dimensional (3D) representation of said patient's dentition that comprises at least a region of the teeth that includes a tooth stump on which a crown is to be fitted or a region on to which a bridge is to be fitted, said physical model further comprising an alignment arrangement to permit proper occlusion alignment of the jaws of said model, based on a 3D data file of said patient's jaws and of the spatial relationship between said jaws in occlusion.

42. (New) A model according to claim 41, wherein said model is optionally a plaster model and wherein said model is optionally a positive teeth model.

43. (New) A model according to claim 42, wherein the alignment arrangement includes a mounting arrangement for mounting said members on an articulator.

44. (New) A model according to claim 43, wherein said mounting arrangement comprises articulator engagement portions formed in each said member, said articulator engagement portions comprising reference holes that can be registered and engaged with respect to corresponding holes or pins in said articulator, wherein said articulator engagement portions and the reference holes thereof are initially defined in said 3D model.

45. (New) A model according to claim 42, wherein the alignment arrangement includes one or more alignment reference components in each of said members, said components in the two members corresponding to one another with each component in one of said members fits with the corresponding component in the other of said members to yield proper alignment of the two members.